

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION NEA-10

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R 120400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8789

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 2799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SA, YE, YS

SUBJECT: VICTOR DICK, NCR REP, IN JAIL IN PDRY

REF: SANA 2448

1. AHMED ABDO SAID TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 11, THAT HE HAD SOME HOPES THAT HIS REFTEL APPROACHES TO PDRY OFFICIALS WOULD SUCCEED IN WINNING RELEASE FROM PRISON FOR NCR REP VICTOR DICK.

2. SAID TOLD CHARGE THAT WHEN HE HAD ASKED FOR DICK'S RELEASE, HE HAD ALSO ASKED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR 14 OTHERS, SEVEN WHO SIMPLY COULDN'T GET PERMISSION TO LEAVY PDRY AND A FAMILY OF SEVEN WHOSE HEAD WAS IMPRISONED. THEFIRST SEVEN GOT EXIT PERMITS PROMPTLY, AND IN THE LAST WEEK THE FAMILY HEAD WAS SPRING AND GIVEN PERMISSION TO TAKE HIS FAMILY OUT OF PDRY. ALL 14 WERE YEMENIS, BUT SAID IS HOPEFUL THAT PDRY OFFICIALS WILL NEVERTHELESS ALSO ACT IN DICK CASE.

3. SAID SAID HE HAD THEREFORE WRITTEN PDRY MININT, MUHAMMAD SALIH YAFAI ABOUT DICK. HE THINKS, HOWEVER, THAT THE WILL HEAR SOMTHING FROM ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL WALI SOON.

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4. ALSO ON DICK, LOCAL REP OF NCR, HALIM CANAAN, A

LEBANESE WHO TOOK DICK'S PLACE, CALLED ON ME TO ASK WHAT
NEXT STEPS COMPANY MIGHT TAKE.

5. CANAAN SAID THEY STILL HAD OFFICE IN PDRY, BUT AS
FORM OF PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT THEY HAD REFUSED MAINTAIN
STOCKS OF SPARES OR TAKE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS. THEY
KEPT ONLY ONE OR TWO TECHNICIANS, DID LITTLE SELLING.
THEY REFUSED TO SELL COMPUTER TO PDRY (SO IBM DID).
ACCORDING CANAAN, WHEN MRS. DICK WAS IN ADEN, SHE WOULD
TRY TO ANSWER EVERY REQUEST FOR SERVICE HERSELF, TAKING
HER BABY, AND TELLING ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN THAT THE
HUSBAND WAS UNFAIRLY IMPRISONED.

6. I SUGGESTED TO CANAAN THAT POLICY OF RESISTANCE, AND
CERTAINLY COURAGE OF MRS.DICK, SOUNDED LIKE RIGHT ONE FOR
TIME WHEN PDRY TRYING TO EXTORT FUNDS FROM COMPANY, BUT
TIME MAY HAVE COME FOR NCR TO OFFER TO EXPAND SERVICE,
SPARE STOCKS, TECHNICIANS IF RPT IF THEY GET ASSURANCES
THAT COMPANY WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN SAFETY.
ONLY CONVINCING ASSUANCES, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES,
WOULD BE RELEASE OF DICK. CANAAN SAID HE WOULD REPORT
THIS IDEA TO NCR OFFICIALS.

COMMENT: IF PDRY OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING FOR SOME KIND
OF A QUID PRO QUO FOR RELEASING DICK, THIS COULD HELP.
IF AMOUNTS, AT SAME TIME, TO NOTHING MORETHAN PLEDGE BY
NCR TO DO BUSINESS IN SOUTH. IT IS NOT PAYMENT OF ANY
KIND OF RANSOM. DEPARTMENT MAY WANT TO BRIEF NCR
REPS ON SAID EFFORTS AND POSSIBILITY THAT SAUDIS ARE
ALSO ENGAGED IN APPROACHES TO PDRY TO MAKE CLEAR NCR WOULD
BE MAKING PARALLEL NOT ISOLATED EFFORT. SAID NOTHING TO
CANAAN ABOUT SAID OR SAUDIS. IF DEPARTMENT DECIDES
TO APPROACH NCR, IT SHOULD SUGGEST COMPANY MOVE QUICKLY
TO CATCH UP WITH YARG AND SAUDI MOVES.
RANSOM

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